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IDEA-0687

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12 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: HQ, USAF
AFCIG-5

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ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Fuel Contamination in Air Refueling
Operations with KC-135 Aircraft

1. The following information has been received from Detachment G concerning the above subject:

a. Trash was found in the fuel filter of Idealist aircraft after recent flights involving air refueling with KC-135 aircraft. The first instance occurred on 21 February. The fuel strainer was inspected immediately prior to the flight and was known to be clean. After the flight, the strainer was again inspected and a large amount of lint was found; also a small amount of hair bristles (such as might come from a paint brush) and a small amount of metal filings.

b. The first two air refueling sorties during the week of 26 February produced the same type of material. Detachment G had previously requested that the tanker be completely drained prior to the refueling training. This presumably was accomplished at the tanker's home station. When contamination was again found after the refueling mission, detachment personnel assisted the tanker crew in draining and flushing the tanker again. However, this did not produce any evidence of trash even though the fuel was run through a fine mesh strainer.

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2. Detachment G repeated their request to the tanker squadron to have all KC-135's used in IDEALIST refueling operations drained and purged prior to servicing with Mil Spec fuel. Although subsequent refueling missions have been completed without contamination, it is recommended that this information be forwarded to Headquarters, SAC to insure the establishment of a written SOP on this subject.

SIGNED

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[redacted]
Chief, Special Projects, Materiel
DPD-DD/P

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